

October 2013



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Merrimack-Belknap-Hillsborough County FSA Updates

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Merrimack-Belknap-Hillsborough County FSA Office

The Concord Center
10 Ferry Street, Box/Suite 212
Concord, NH 03301

Phone: 603-223-6003
Fax: 603-223-6030
www.fsa.usda.gov/NH
Hours: Monday-Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Executive Director:
Donna Juneau
donna.juneau@nh.usda.gov
603-223-6003

County Executive Director (CED) Comments

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Merrimack-Belknap-Hillsborough County Farm Service Agency Office was closed from October 1 through October 16, 2013 due to a lapse in federal government funding. There is now an enacted Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 continuing resolution that provides funding for the USDA Farm Service Agency. We are in the process of an orderly start-up of farm program and farm loan activities for FY 2014. Thank you for your patience and support during the period our services were unavailable.

We realize that the temporary lapse in service has created a backlog in requests and service delivery needs. While this backlog was not created overnight and will not be addressed overnight, we are committed to a proactive and customer-focused approach to prioritize activities so that we can provide the service you expect and deserve as quickly as possible. Please contact the FSA office if you have any questions or need additional information.

Program Technicians:

Melinda Marston

melinda.marston@nh.usda.gov

Thank you again for your patience during this period.

Anne Helmers

anne.helmerts@nh.usda.gov

Crop Acreage Reporting

NH Acting Farm Loan Manager:

Brian Kuper

brian.kuper@vt.usda.gov

603-223-6003

2014 Crop Acreage Reporting has begun! The deadline for report 2014 perennial forage, fall forage seeding and fall-seeded small grains is November 15, 2013. Please contact the office to report crop acreage for these 2014 crops as soon as possible.

You can contact the Merrimack-Belknap-Hillsborough County FSA Office 24 hours a day by sending us a fax, an e-mail, or leaving a voice mail message. Our office phone number is 223-6003; our fax number is 223-6030; and our office e-mail is MBHCOUNTYFSA@nh.usda.gov

NH Farm Loan Officers:

Lorna Wakefield

Rebecca Davis

William Wilson

Acreage reports are required for many of our Farm Service Agency programs. Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

NH Farm Loan Program Technician:

Sandra Carter

County Committee Members:

Martha Crete, Chair

Eric Tenney, Vice-Chair

William Hall Jr., Member

Robert Potter Jr., Member

Jane Presby, Member

The New Hampshire Farm Service Agency has established the following acreage reporting deadlines for the 2014 Crop Year:

November 15, 2013 – Perennial Forage, Fall Forage Seeding, Fall-Seeded Small Grains

January 2, 2014 – Honey

January 15, 2014 - Apples, Peaches, Nectarines

February 15, 2014 - Maple Sap

May 31, 2014 – Ornamental Nursery

July 15, 2014 – Corn, Fresh Market Sweet Corn, Spring Forage Seeding, All Other Crops

Next County Committee Meeting:

Friday, December 6, 2013 at 10:00 AM - USDA Conference Room 211

County Committee Elections

Watch your mailbox for your official county office committee election ballot starting early next month. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters on Nov. 4, 2013. If for some reason you don't receive a ballot, feel free to notify the county FSA office.

Completed and signed ballots must be returned to the county office by close of business on December 2, 2013.

DCP Final Payments

Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) payments for 2013 will be issued in late October. These payments will be deposited directly into participating producers' bank accounts. The description on your bank statement will be: "FSATreas310".

If there are any unearned payments, Commodity Credit Corporation will automatically subtract those amounts from the October Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program payments.

Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

Deadlines

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) is a federally funded program that helps producers reduce their risk when growing food and fiber crops, specialty crops and crops for livestock feed. Benefits are only available for crops for which the catastrophic level of crop insurance is not available. NAP is a voluntary program that reduces risk of financial loss when natural disasters cause losses or prevented planting of an eligible crop or agricultural commodity. An eligible natural disaster may include:

- Damaging weather, such as drought, freeze, hail, excessive moisture, excessive wind or hurricanes;
- An adverse natural occurrence, such as: earthquake or flood;
- A condition related to damaging weather or an adverse natural occurrence, such as: excessive heat, plant disease, insect infestation; or
- Any combination of these conditions.

The natural disaster must occur during the coverage period, before or during harvest and must directly affect the eligible crop.

To participate in NAP producers pay an annual service fee of \$250 per crop per county or a maximum of \$750 per producer per county per crop year. The fee for multi-county producers cannot exceed \$1875 per crop year. Limited resource producers may request a waiver of service fees. Eligibility for NAP coverage is based on a proven history of crop production or on an expected yield for the county. Each unit has an actual production history (APH). A loss greater than 50 percent of the established APH will be covered. Payments are made at 55% of the average market price for the crop. The average market price is set by the NH State FSA Committee.

NAP application closing dates are:

September 1 – Fall Seeded Garlic, Ornamental Nursery, Christmas Trees, Floriculture

September 30 – All Forage Crops

November 20 – Perennial Crops (including blueberries, strawberries, cherries, etc.)

December 1 – Maple Sap and Honey

March 15 – Annual Spring Seeded Crops

NAP Loss Filing

The CCC-576, Notice of Loss, is used to report failed acreage and prevented planting and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing a Notice of Loss is required for all crops including grasses. For losses on crops covered by the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and crop insurance, you must file a CCC-576 (Notice of Loss) in the FSA County Office within 15 days of the occurrence of the disaster or when losses become apparent.

If filing for prevented planting, an acreage report and CCC-576 must be filed within 15 calendar days of the final planting date for the crop.

Electronic Services Available

If a producer has Internet access, program participants can access many services from home 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and receive approval and payment by direct deposit within 48 hours.

To participate in these services, you must meet all program eligibility requirements. Online services have stringent security measures to protect your private information.

To utilize electronic services a producer needs an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires an e-mail address and filling out an online registration form at www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/ followed by a visit to the county office for identity verification.

If you would like assistance establishing your account, just contact your local USDA Service Center.

Selected Interest Rates for October 2013:

Farm Operating Loans (including microloans)-Direct 1.875%
Farm Ownership Loans- Direct 4.125%
Farm Ownership – Direct, Joint Financing – 5.00%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher 1.50 %
Emergency Loans- 2.875%
Farm Storage Facility Loans (7 years) - 2.250%

Dates to Remember:

November 4, 2013 - Ballots for County Committee Election mailed to Producers
November 11, 2013 - Veterans Day (Office Closed)
November 15, 2013 - Crop Acreage Reporting Deadline for perennial forage, fall forage seeding,
fall-seeded small grains
November 20, 2013 - NAP Sign Up Deadline for Perennial Crops
November 28, 2013 – Thanksgiving Holiday (Office Closed)
December 1, 2013 - NAP Sign Up Deadline for Honey and Maple Sap
December 2, 2013 - Last day to return voted ballots to the USDA Service Center
December 6, 2013 – County Committee Meeting and Election

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).